

**In the Claims:**

1. A method for ~~providing a patient~~ treating a patient in suffering from a disease amenable to treatment by an interferon-alpha polypeptide by administering into a tissue of interest of said patient ~~by providing said patient with an interferon- $\alpha$  polypeptide comprising:~~ introducing into a tissue of interest of the patient a recombinant viral vector comprising a nucleic acid segment encoding an interferon  $\alpha$  polypeptide, the nucleic acid segment being operatively linked to a promoter having specificity for the tissue of interest, wherein the interferon  $\alpha$  polypeptide is expressed in active form in the tissue of interest in the patient and .

13. A method for ~~increasing~~ expressing interferon  $\alpha$  levels in a tissue of interest in a patient comprising introducing into the tissue of interest a viral vector comprising a nucleic acid segment encoding an interferon  $\alpha$  polypeptide, the nucleic acid segment being operatively linked to a promoter having specificity for the tissue of interest, wherein the interferon  $\alpha$  polypeptide is expressed at a therapeutically effective level in the tissue of interest in the patient.

~~Please cancel claims 5, 10, 11, 12, and 18.~~

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS FOLLOWING AMENDMENT**

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 13-17, and 19-39 are pending in this application. Claims -4, 6-9, 13-17, and 18-39 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-4, 13, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 102(e). No claim is allowed.

**REMARKS****A. Time for Response:**

Enclosed with this communication is a petition for a three month extension of time to respond to the above referenced Office Action and the requisite fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R.1.17(a)(3). extending the date for response until April 4, 2001. Applicants therefore believe this Response is timely filed.